

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 EB-04 AGR-05

/075 W

----- 023665

R 171436Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6053

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3719

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US, JM

SUBJECT: RETURN CALL OF PRC AMBASSADOR

REF: (A) KINGSTON 2315; (B) KINGSTON 2723

1. PRC AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA, LI CHAO PAID A RETURN CALL (REF A) ON AMBASSADOR OCTOBER 15, ACCOMPANIED BY INTERPRETER CHANG MING-HUA. LI RETURNED TO KINGSTON APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO FOLLOWING TWO MONTHS' LEAVE IN CHINA (REF B).

2. DURING 30 MINUTE CONVERSATION LI CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN IRAQ AND LAOS. WHEN ASKED HOW HE ENJOYED VIENTIANE, LI REPLIED HE WAS NOT IN CAPITAL, BUT "SERVED AS A FUNCTIONARY IN THE NORTH OF THE COUNTRY." LI SAID HE HAS NO FIXED TOUR OF DUTY IN JAMAICA. HOW LONG HE STAYS IS DEPENDENT ON THE TIME REQUIRED TO ACCOMPLISH HIS MISSION (UNDEFINED).

3. ASKED HOW HE FOUND THINGS AT HOME DURING LEAVE LI
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REPLIED WITH A PRO FORMA "FINE" AND CHANGED THE SUBJECT.

WHEN AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS SADDENED TO READ IN MORNING PAPER THAT CHAIRMAN MAO HAD SUFFERED A STROKE (ARTICLE ALSO SPECULATED ON LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE) LI FORCEFULLY INTERJECTED THAT REPORT WAS A CONCOCTION OF THE CAPITALIST PRESS MEANT TO SOW CONFUSION, MAO WAS IN GOOD HEALTH, AND THAT EMPHASIS ON PERSONALITIES OBSCURED FUNDAMENTAL POINT THAT CHINA ENJOYS A SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP.

4. CONCERNING TRADE WITH JAMAICA, LI AVOIDED SPECIFICS, SAYING ONLY THAT WHILE POTENTIAL CONTACTS ARE BEING STUDIED IT WOULD BE MINISCULE IN COMPARISON TO THE U.S. GIVEN OUR ADVANTAGE IN THE LOCAL MARKET. HE SHRUGGED OFF A QUESTION ABOUT FURTHER CHINESE IMPORTS OF JAMAICAN SUGAR WITH THE REMARK THAT CHINA ITSELF IS A MAJOR PRODUCER OF CANE AND BEET SUGAR.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY LI, AMBASSADOR PROVIDED GENERAL RUNDOWN ON BAUXITE NEGOTIATIONS, AND OUR READING OF RESIGNATION OF OPPOSITION LEADER.

6. COMMENT: MEETING WAS CORDIAL, THOUGH DESULTORY COURTESY CALL.
GERARD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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